

50. (New) A recording medium which is readable by a computer and has stored a program for allowing a computer to function as a contract device for:

detecting an application for closing a contract for supply of a commodity when accepting presentation of an electronic note or electronic representation of money and said application from an outside device connected via a network and receiving said electronic note of an amount equivalent to the price of said commodity out of said presented electronic note; and

when supplied with said electronic note together with separation information representing a plurality of amounts whose total is substantially equal to the amount of said electronic note, invalidating said electronic note supplied together with said separation information and generating and supplying a plurality of electronic notes having amounts represented by said separation information to said outside device.

REMARKS

Claims 2, 21, 23, and 25-27 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, and 22 have been amended. New claims 28-50 have been added. Accordingly claims 1, 3-20, 22, 24, and 28-50 remain under prosecution in this application.

Priority

Enclosed herewith is a certified copy of the foreign application which this U.S. application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(b). Please enter this certified copy into the official record of this application.

§102 and §103

Amended claim 1 incorporates the features of originally filed claims 1 and 2. Since claim was indicated as allowable, amended claim 1, and its dependent claims (claims 3, 5-20), are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been amended to place it into independent format and to incorporate the limitations of originally filed claim 1. Claim 4 was indicated as being in condition for allowance, and accordingly the undersigned believes that, in view of these amendments, claim 4 is now allowable

Claim 22 incorporates the limitations of originally filed claims 22 and 23. None of the references of record teach or suggest an electronic monetary system having an “information generation section storing an amount obtained by subtracting said amount equivalent to said corresponding value from said credit limit indicated by said identification code as a new credit limit, when determining to generate said information representing said amount equivalent to said corresponding value” (see the last paragraph of newly amended claim 22).

Claim 24 was not explicitly rejected or allowed in the previous Office Action and accordingly its status is undefined. The undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner clarify his position on the allowability of claim 24.

New claim 28 primarily focuses on the electronic note generation means of claim 1. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 28 and accordingly the undersigned believes that new claim 28 and its dependent claims (claims 29-33) are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 34 primarily corresponds to amended claim 4. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention as set forth in claim 34 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 34 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 35 primarily corresponds to amended claim 22. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 35 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 35 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 36 primarily corresponds to the contract means set forth in claim 1. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 36 and accordingly the undersigned believes that new claim 36 and its dependent claims (claims 37-42) are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 43 primarily corresponds to amended claim 4. None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in new claim 43 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 43 is now in condition for allowance.

New claim 44 essentially retracts claim 1 except that it sets forth some of its apparatus clauses in method language format.

Because claim 1 has been indicated as allowable, the undersigned believes that, by analogy, claim 44 is also allowable.

Claim 45 essentially tracks amended claim 4 except for the omission of contract means. Additionally, claim 45 sets forth some of the limitations of claim 4 in method language. Because claim 4 has been indicated as allowable, the undersigned believes that, by analogy, claim 45 is also allowable.

The recording medium of claim 46 generally corresponds to new claim 28.

The recording medium of claim 47 generally corresponds to new claim 34.

The recording medium of claim 48 generally corresponds to new claim 35.

The recording medium of claim 49 generally corresponds to new claim 36.

The recording medium of claim 50 generally corresponds to new claim 43.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, the undersigned believes that claims 1, 3-20, 22, 24, and 28-50 are now in condition for allowance.

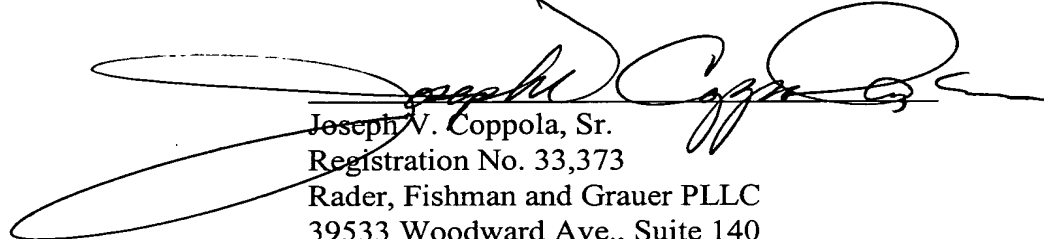
Extension of Time

A two-month extension of time is due with the filing of this paper. The fee of \$390.00 for obtaining a two-month extension may be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 18-0013. No other fees are believed to be due with the filing of this paper; however, if any

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other fees are due with the filing of this paper, they may also be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 18-0013.

Respectfully submitted,



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